

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 ISO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 FEA-01

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /102 W
----- 023487

R 240919Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 117
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, JA, RP

SUBJ: PAPAN RESTRICTS COPPER IMPORTS FROM PHILIPPINES

1. PHILIPPINE COPPER INDUSTRY HAS REPORTED JAPANESE IMPORTERS ARE REDUCING COPPER IMPORTS 15 TO 30 PERCENT BELOW LEVELS EXISTING EARLIER THIS YEAR. ACCORDING TO FIRMS, CUTBACK WILL REDUCE PHILIPPINE COPPER SHIPMENTS TO JAPAN BELOW CONTRACT LEVELS. CUTBACK HAS REPORTEDLY ALSO BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY INCREASES IN SMELTING CHARGES.

2. CENTRAL BANK SOURCES STATE PHILIPPINE RECEIPTS FROM EXPORTS OF COPPER CONCENTRATES TO JAPAN TOTALED \$342 MILLION FOR FIRST 11 MONTHS OF 1974 BASED ON EXPORTS OF 713 THOUSAND METRIC TONS. FOR OCTOBERD NOVEMBER RECEIPTS WERE DOWN BY ONE-THIRD FROM \$30 MILLION MONTHLY AVERAGE OF PRECEDING NINE MONTHS BUT SHIPMENTS HELD TO 65 MILLION TON MINTHLY AVERAGE. ALTHOUGH HARD INFORMATION IS NOT
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AVAILABLE, CUTS REPORTED ARE BELIEVED TO BE FROM LEVELS

PREVAILING DURING FIRST 11 MONTHS OF YEAR.

3. FOLLOWING METING WITH HEADS OF LEADING COPPER PRODUCERS, PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS ANNOUNCED HE PLANS TO SEND A SPECIAL MISSION TO JAPAN TO CONSULT WITH THE JAPANESE INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT ON THE CUTBACK. PHILIPPINE PRESS HAS FEATURED PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT THAT PHILIPPINES INCREASE IN PRODUCTION WAS IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER KAKUIE TANAKA DURING HIS VISIT LAST YEAR AND WAS BASED ON ASSURANCES FROM TANAKA THAT JAPAN WOULD TAKE INCREASED PRODUCTION.

4. ONE INDUSTRY SOURCE HAS REPORTED TO EMBASSY THAT JAPANESE HAVE SUGGESTED PHILIPPINES BUILD UP COPPER STOCK-PILE AT ESTIMATED COST OF \$30-35 MILLION IN ORDER MAINTAIN LOCAL PRODUCTION. PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT NOT EXPECTED VOLUNTEER TO BEAR EXPENSE OF MAGNITUDE LIKELY INVOLVED, ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT WELCOME JAPANESE FINANCING FOR BUILD-UP OF CONCENTRATES IN PHILIPPINES.

5. CUTBACK WITH INCREASE IN SMELTING FEES HAS PUT GREATER SENSE OF URGENCY INTO GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO ESTABLISH DOMESTIC SMELTING FACILITIES. HOWEVER, THE PROPOSED SMELTERS' LARGE POWER NEEDS APPEAR TO BE A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO AN EARLY DECISION BY THE GOVERNMENT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF SMELTER FACILITIES.
SULLIVAN

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